

REMARKS

The following responds to the Search Report and Written Opinion of May 17, 2005. Claims 1 - 17 are present in the application, claims 10 - 17 having been newly added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his careful search and favorable opinion. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for amending the Abstract. In light of the added claims however, applicant supplies a further amended Abstract.

Applicant has identified and amends to correct minor errors in the specification. Only the correction on p. 10, line 10 needs any discussion. The specification's original statement is clearly incorrect. The amended paragraph simply explains that both filter 25 and throttling valve 31 have the same pressure drop because they both drop pressure from the same higher pressure space to the same lower pressure (atmospheric) space. Applicant believes that this is well known, so this change to the specification in no way constitutes new matter.

Applicant has further amended claims 4 and 6 to remove indefiniteness. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter these amendments.

Because of the paucity of relevant prior art revealed by the careful search report, applicant amends by adding claims 10 - 16 and respectfully requests the Examiner to enter both the amendments to the original claims and the added claims above.

Applicant believes that ample support exists in the original specification for each and every limitation in the added claims 10

- 16.

Further, applicant believes that the limitations of claims 10 - 16 essentially replicate those in claims 1 - 9 as to key limitations and therefore clearly distinguish over the art cited in the Search Report. For example, broadening the reference to a simple filter rather than a "nanofilter" but still having the functional characteristics of "passing monovalent ions to the downstream side and retaining multivalent ions on the upstream side" is important if filters with those characteristics that are not nanofilters become available. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner find that claims 10 - 17 fulfill the requirements for patentability.

Claim 17 expands the method to a less arbitrary range.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a favorable patentability report.

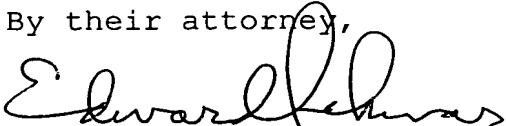
Should the Office have further questions or concerns, inquiries may be directed to the undersigned at the phone number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

Cartwright Consulting, Co.

By their attorney,

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